

Prof. Macoun's eldest son, James M. Macoun, also a botanist and attached to the Geological Survey, predeceased him; his second son, Mr. W. T. Macoun, is the Dominion Horticulturist, and survives him.

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### XI.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

#### *Chapin on African Birds.*

[Notes on a new Ox-pecker and other little-known Birds of the Congo. By James P. Chapin. Amer. Mus. Novit. no. 17, 1921, pp. 1-16.]

Among his Congo collections Mr. Chapin has found a new Oxpecker related to *Buphagus africanus*, but darker and smaller. He and his companion Mr. Lang came across it at Zambi on the lower Congo, where it was commonly seen about the domestic cattle. He names it *Buphagus langi* and illustrates the difference between the new and the two well-known species in a neat sketch. He further proposes the subgeneric term *Buphagoides* to distinguish the Red-billed species *B. erythrorhynchus*.

His next note is on a Sunbird, *Nectarinia congensis*, described by van Oort in 1910, and not apparently met with since except by himself. He obtained a good many examples along the middle Congo.

The affinities of *Neolestes* and *Nicator* are discussed in the third note. These genera have been always associated with the Laniidæ, though undoubtedly aberrant. Mr. Chapin without hesitation assigns the first to the Pycnonotidæ, while he finds *Nicator* stands somewhat apart with relations to the Shrikes, the Bulbuls, and especially to *Bleda*. The juvenile plumage of *Signodus*, to which another sketch is devoted, is very remarkable and most unlike that of the Shrikes, with which the genus is often associated. He states "as passerine families go the Prionopidæ seem to be well marked off from the true Shrikes, but the affinities to the two typical African genera of some other forms usually associated with them seem to me most questionable."

A curious Cliff-Swallow discovered by Preuss in Cameroon and named by Reichenow *Lecythoplastes preussi* has never been rediscovered until Mr. Chapin met with a considerable flock at a rest-house in the upper Welle District. Though the two localities are 1300 miles apart Mr. Chapin was unable to find any differences of importance, and he believes that the Welle and the Cameroon birds are identical.

A final note is a useful list of species whose range extends from the Cameroon across the Congo forest to upper Welle and even the Lake regions beyond.

*Chapman on new South American Birds.*

[Descriptions of proposed new Birds from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Brazil. By Frank M. Chapman. Amer. Mus. Novit. no. 18, 1921, pp. 1-12.]

This paper contains descriptions of new forms of South American Birds, which the author's studies in the British Museum during May and June of last year has enabled him to make, after comparing material in the American Museum with that in our own. Of one form indeed, *Leptasthenura striata cajabambæ* from Peru, the type is actually in the British Museum.

Among the other birds described are: *Nothocercus fuscinervis*, *Penelope barbata*, *Picumnus parvistriatus*, *Thamnophilus zarumæ*, *Leptasthenura xenothorax*, *Automolus celicæ*, and *Sporophila insulata*, all described as new species, as well as a number of others described as subspecifically distinct only.

*Chapman on Peruvian Birds.*

[The Distribution of Bird Life in the Urubamba Valley of Peru. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. no. 117, 1921, pp. 1-138; map and eight plates of photographs.]

This essay by Dr. Chapman forms part of the results of an expedition organized by Yale University and the National Geographical Society of America under the direction of

Prof. Hiram Bingham to explore the Urubamba Valley of Peru and to make a thorough survey, not only of its archæology but also of its geology and biology.

The task of making collections in vertebrate zoology was entrusted to Mr. Edmund Heller, who is well known as one of the members of the Roosevelt expedition to eastern Africa. He was in the field from April to November, 1915, and obtained 757 bird-skins. The following year Mr. Chapman himself made a hasty trip, lasting only twenty-four days, to the same region, and obtained 744 specimens.

The valley of the Urubamba river, which forms one of the principal headwaters of the Amazon, begins at the La Raya pass, 14,150 feet, some distance north of Lake Titicaca, and from thence to Santa Ana, 3480 feet, a distance in a straight line of about 300 miles, it passes from the Puna or Paramo zone (above the limit of arborescent vegetation) through the temperate, subtropical, and tropical zones with arid and humid sections in each, and a considerable number of pages are devoted by Dr. Chapman to a discussion of these zones, their relations, and whence they derived their fauna, and their comparison with similar zones in Colombia.

The second portion of the paper contains a distributional list of 380 species and subspecies known from the Urubamba, and mentions those collected many years ago by H. Whitely and reviewed by Selater and Salvin (*P. Z. S.* 1869, p. 151), and subsequently by J. Kalinowski which were reported on by Berlepsch and Stolzmann (*Ornis*, xiii, 1906, pp. 63-133).

Three new subspecies are described in the present paper, and thirteen others were previously described in the Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington or in the Bulletin of the American Museum. We need hardly add that this is a most important paper, not only for specialists in neotropical birds but also for all those interested in the problems of geographical distribution.

*Crandall on the Blue Bird of Paradise.*

[The Blue Bird of Paradise. By Lee S. Crandall. Zool. Soc. Bull. New York, xxiv. 1921, pp. 111-113; col. pl.]

The Zoological Park at Bronx, New York, has been so fortunate as to acquire recently a live pair of Prince Rudolf's Blue Bird of Paradise (*Paradisornis rudolfi*), and Mr. Crandall describes in a short note the extraordinary display antics of the male with the aid of a beautiful illustration in colour by Mr. Herbert Kunth. During this performance the bird firmly grasps his perch with his powerful feet, and with legs extended to the utmost hangs head downwards. Viewed from the front, the plumes and the bird itself form an inverted triangle, the inverted apex of which is the black breast of the bird bordered above by a narrow band of dull red formed by the feathers which ordinarily clothe the abdomen; beyond, the blue and yellow of the plumes complete the triangle in the middle and sides; while the long pendent "wires" rise above to half their length and then droop gracefully downwards on either side. During the display, which lasts for several minutes, the body is moved backwards and forwards with the hips as a fulcrum, and this rapid movement causes waves of colour to run over the entire triangle. Truly a most marvellous display, probably the most brilliant to be found in all the range of bird-life. We trust it may not be long before the Zoological Society in London may be able to obtain a pair.

*Dwight and Griscom on the genus Atlapetes.*

[A revision of *Atlapetes gutturalis* with descriptions of three new races. By Jonathan Dwight and Ludlow Griscom. Amer. Mus. Novit. no. 16, 1921, pp. 1-4.]

In this short paper the races of *Atlapetes gutturalis*, a dull-coloured Finch inhabiting the mountains of Central America from Guatemala to Colombia, are reviewed. *A. g. parvirostris*, Costa Rica, *A. g. fuscipygius*, Nicaragua, and *A. g. griseipectus*, Guatemala, are described as new.

*Gladstone on the Value of Birds.*

[The Value of Birds. By Hugh S. Gladstone. Pp. 1-30. Dumfries (Standard Office), 1921. 8vo.]

Mr. Hugh Gladstone has here reprinted an address which he read before the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society on 15 October, 1920. After an introduction dealing with the various ways in which birds may be of economic value to man—as messengers, as food, and as adornment,—he discusses their extrinsic value as regards the food they themselves consume. He treats at considerable length of the great difficulty in the case of many species of striking a value between the harm that they do and the benefits they confer on the gardener and agriculturist, and the great danger of drawing conclusions from isolated observations. Because a Long-eared Owl has once been observed taking a young Pheasant from the rearing-field there is no reason to condemn all Long-eared Owls, nor because a Wagtail has been noticed taking young Trout from a hatchery in Bute in December are we to ban all Wagtails. Only by laborious and continuous investigation of the stomach-contents of a species throughout the year and throughout different parts of the country, can a just appreciation of its economic status be acquired.

Mr. Gladstone pleads for the institution of an Ornithological Bureau under the Ministry of Agriculture to deal with this matter continuously and constantly.

The greater part of the address is devoted to a review of the present economic status of all our commoner British Birds, arranged in systematic order compiled from the best and latest investigations, and this is followed by a useful bibliography of the recent literature dealing with the subject.



*Grote on African Birds.*

[Ueber einige Vögel der deutschostafrikanischen Südküste. Von Hermann Grote. Journ. Ornith. 1919, pp. 298-302.]

[Zur Kenntniss der geographischen Formen des *Alseonax murinus*. Id. Orn. Monatsber. 1920, pp. 112-115.]

[Vögel der Ukerewe-Insel des Victoria-Nyanza. Id. Journ. Ornith. 1921, pp. 406-426.]

The first paper on the list is a supplement to a previous one by the same author on the birds of the southern portion of what was previously German East Africa, published in the same journal in 1913-14. It contains comments on several species, and a description of two new subspecies—*Estrilda astrild litoris* and *Lagonosticta rubricata reichenowi*.

The second paper on the list is a review of the subspecies of the little grey Flycatcher, *Alseonax murinus*, which is found throughout the greater part of tropical Africa in mountainous districts under slightly varying forms. The review is based on the examples in the Berlin Museum, though the author allows that it cannot be really satisfactory without a direct comparison with the specimens in the British Museum. One new form, *A. m. subtilis*, from Beni, west of the Semliki river, is here described.

Herr Grote's last paper deals with a considerable collection of birds made by a German missionary, Pater Conrads, in 1908-9, on the large island of Ukerewe in the southern half of Lake Victoria. The collection, consisting of 750 skins representing 174 species, is in the Berlin Museum and is now listed for the first time. The geographical relations of the avifauna are partly with Reichenow's "Great Lakes subregion," partly with the avifauna characteristic of the inland districts of eastern Africa. Another interesting feature of the avifauna of Ukerewe is the large number of Palearctic wintering-birds, such as *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*, *Budytes flavus thunbergi*, *Hirundo rustica*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Tringa glareola*, and *T. hypoleucos*.

Three new forms had been previously described—*Rhinoptilus cinctus emini* Zedl., *Coliuspasser macroura conradsii*

Berger, and *Tigribaphe leucolama* Reichw. The last, we are informed, is an example of a *Tigrisoma* from South America, and must have been accidentally included in Father Conrad's collection. It is quite unlike any of the known African Bitterns.

*Grote's Translations of Russian Memoirs.*

[Ueber die zoologischen (hauptsächlich ornithologischen) Gebiete der Ausserhalb der Tropen gelegenen Teile unseres Kontinents. Von Nikolai Sewerzow. Uebersetzt und eigeleitet von Hermann Grote. Pp. 1-32, portr. München (Dultz), 1921. 8vo.]

[Aus der ornithologischen Literatur Russlands. Berichte und Uebersetzungen. Von Hermann Grote. I.—Dr. B. Shitkow's ornithologische Beobachtungen auf der Samojeden-Halbinsel (Ja-mal). II.—Die Vögel Nordwestrusslands: der Gouvernements Pskow, Nowgorod und St. Petersburg. Pp. 1-32.]

Herr Grote, who was for some time detained in Russia as a prisoner of war and there acquired a good knowledge of Russian, has conceived the happy idea of issuing a series of translations or, rather, full résumés of the more important memoirs of Russian ornithologists which, owing to the language in which they were published, are unknown to the majority of western bird-students.

Of the three, the first contains a short account of the life and writings of the celebrated naturalist Sewerzow, or Severtzoff as he is generally known to English writers—one of the earliest of the Russian naturalists to explore Turkestan and the highlands of the Pamirs and Tian Shan mountain ranges. He lost his life in 1885 when crossing a tributary of the Don not sufficiently frozen over to bear the weight of his carriage. The memoir here translated deals with the subdivision of the Palearctic region into subregions and zones, and was published in 1877 in Russia in the 'Transactions of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society' (vol. xiii. pp. 125-153). A portrait of Severtzoff accompanies the paper.

The second of Herr Grote's translations deals with the birds of the Jamal or the Samoye Peninsula, that dreary

tract stretching northwards between the Kara Sea and the estuary of the Ob River in north-west Siberia. This land was explored on behalf of the Russian Geographical Society in 1908 by Dr. B. Shitkow, and the results of his journey were published in 1913 (*Annuaire du Musée Zoologique de l'Acad. Imp. de St. Pétersbourg*, xvii. pp. 311-369). A list of 52 species obtained by Dr. Shitkow is given, and there are some interesting remarks on the vexed question of the validity of several so-called species or races of Geese of the groups *Anser segetum* and *A. albifrons*, and also on the moults of *Lagopus lagopus* and *L. mutus*.

In the third memoir is a review of the literature dealing with the avifauna of the three Governments in north-west Russia, situated in the neighbourhood of Petrograd—those of Pskow, Nowgorod, and St. Petersburg itself. A good deal has been written on these provinces by Bianchi, Sarudny, Büchner, and other well-known ornithologists. A list of 304 species recorded, with indication of the status of each, in each of the three provinces, compiled by Herr Grote from the most recent Russian sources, concludes this very useful series of reviews, which we hope will secure sufficient support to warrant the continuation of the work by the author.

*Hartert's Birds of the Palæartic Fauna.*

[Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna. Von Dr. Ernst Hartert. Heft. xvi., xvii. (Bd. iii. 2, 3), pp. 1893-2020, 2021-2148. Berlin (Friedländer), Sept. and Nov. 1921.]

We have recently received two more parts of Dr. Hartert's now almost classical book, and we may congratulate him on the completion of the systematic portion of the work. The first of these parts deals with the greater number of the Game-birds and with the Ostriches, thus finishing the review of the birds found in the Palæartic Region. The species and subspecies which are numbered right through amount to 2200. An introduction to the supplement reviews generally



the progress of our knowledge of Palearctic Ornithology since 1903, when the work was commenced, and explains the scope of the proposed supplementary parts. The new species and subspecies described since the issue of the several parts will be discussed and criticised, and the more obvious errors which detract from the usefulness of the work pointed out; finally, a review of the boundaries of the Palearctic Region is given from the Cape Verde Islands, through the Sahara and the Arabian deserts to the Himalayas and China, ending at the mouth of the Yangtze-kiang.

The second part here noticed is occupied entirely with additions and corrections, and takes us from the Corvidæ to *Sylvia*.

We understand that one more part will be required to complete the supplement and the index, and that, so far as the author is concerned, the work is completed. We hope soon to receive the last part, and to be able to congratulate Dr. Hartert on having completed his great work with such complete success notwithstanding the many difficulties and trials which have stood in his path.

*McGregor on Philippine Birds.*

[Birds of Antigua Province, Panay, Philippine Islands. By Richard C. McGregor. Philippine Journ. Sci. vol. 18, 1921, pp. 537-553; 2 maps.]

The Antigua Province, which Mr. McGregor visited in May, June, and July 1918, is a narrow strip along the western side of the island of Panay, backed by a range of mountains of about 3300 to 5000 feet elevation. These are well covered with forest, and the district must enjoy a very heavy rainfall during the south-east monsoon. A list of about ninety species is enumerated, about twenty of which had not previously been recorded on the island. There are field-notes, and in some cases the taxonomy is also discussed. Some nests and eggs were taken, and are here described probably for the first time.

*Mathews on Australian Birds.*

[The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. ix. pt. 4 ; pp. 145-192, pls. 418-424. London (Witherby), October 1921.]

The reader of this part of Mr. Mathews's work will at once recognize that the chief points of interest lie in the genera *Orthonyx* and *Cinclosoma*. Their place in any classification is still quite doubtful, so the author sets them apart in the families Orthonyidae and Cinclosomatidae, until the anatomy has been further examined. Both are exclusively Australian. The curious Spine-tailed Log-runner of the New South Wales and Queensland scrubs is a well known, though very local, bird which keeps entirely to the ground; the Black-headed Log-runner, separated by Mr. Mathews as *Macrothonyx*, is confined to the Rockingham Bay district, and is more shy and less known. Two points of nomenclature should be noticed—first, that the specific name of *Orthonyx* should be *temminckii* Ranzani and not *maculatus* or *spinicaudus*; second, that its relative in New Guinea is certainly specifically and perhaps generically distinct and may be called *Papuorthonyx*, n. g.

The nearest allies of *Cinclosoma* are discussed on page 182, when the two species (the Spotted and Chestnut-backed Ground-birds) come under consideration. Our knowledge of the one dates from Latham, of the other from Gould; both keep much to the ground, but are perfectly able to fly for moderate distances; in their curious habits and pretty coloration they remind us of the Log-runners, but they are much more widely distributed.

The other species in this part are *Lalage tricolor*, continued from part 3, with an interesting description of its habits and forms; *Karua leucomela*, a bird separated by the author from *Lalage* on structural considerations, where the habits are almost ignored by field naturalists, no doubt on account of their similarity to those of its congener; and two species of Fig-bird (*Sphecotheres*), under a family Sphecotheridae, closely allied to, if not identical with; Campophagidae (p. 158), and certainly not to be coupled

with Oriolidæ, as used to be imagined. From one of the Watling drawings Latham named a bird the Maxillary Thrush, but Mr. Mathews has shown in the 'Austral Avian Record' that *Sphecotheres vieilloti* is the correct name of the commoner Fig-bird, and that *maxillaris* does not apply. A second species continues as *flaviventris*, for Latham's *melinus* is not accepted by the author.

There are no new subspecies in this part.

*Robinson and Kloss on new Oriental Birds.*

[Nine new Oriental Birds. By H. C. Robinson and C. Boden Kloss. J. Fed. Malay States Mus. x. 1921, pp. 203-206.]

[New and known Oriental Birds. By C. Boden Kloss. Ibid., pp. 207-213.]

[Notes on some Oriental Birds. Id., ibid. pp. 214-228.]

The first of the papers cited contains descriptions of nine new subspecies from various localities in Farther India.

In the second paper Mr. Kloss discusses the correct name of the Black Drongo, generally known as *Dicrurus ater* (Hermann), but the name is preoccupied and must give way to *D. microcercus* Vieillot. The type-locality must be, according to Mr. Kloss, Peninsular India, and seven subspecies are recognized. Two of these are new—*D. m. thai* from Tenasserim and Siam and *D. m. javanus* from Java. A review of the Ruby-Cheeks (*Chalcoparia singalensis*) follows. There are six recognizable races, two of which—*C. s. sumatrana* and *C. s. borneana*—are new, from Sumatra and Borneo respectively.

In the third contribution there are discussions on the races of the Oriental species of *Haleyon*, the subspecies of *Chibia hottentotta*, and on Malaysian Crows, and there are remarks on many other disputed points and descriptions of various new races.

*Rothschild on New Guinea Birds.*

[On some Birds from the Weyland Mountains, Dutch New Guinea. By Lord Rothschild, F.R.S. Nov. Zool. xxviii. 1921, pp. 280-294.]

The Weyland Mountains are a range to the north of the

Snowy Range, explored by the B. O. U. expedition of 1909-1911, and are approached from Geelvink Bay. Here between October 1920 and January 1921 the three brothers Pratt, sons of Mr. A. E. Pratt, made large collections of butterflies for Mr. J. J. Joicey, and at the same time obtained a number of bird-skins of very considerable interest which Lord Rothschild has here described. No fewer than twenty-two species of Paradise-birds were obtained, and a fine series of *Pteridophora alberti* including young males and adult females, hitherto unknown. Another bird of much interest in the collection is the Black Lory, *Charmosyna atrata*. Lord Rothschild cannot make up his mind whether it is a melanistic form of *C. stella* or a distinct species. Only one new race is described—*Melirrhophetes belfordi joiceyi*.

*Salvadori and Festa on the Birds of Cyrenaica.*

[Missione zoologica del Dott. E. Festa in Cirenaica. I. Uccelli. T. Salvadori et E. Festa. Boll. Mus. Zool. Anat. comp. Torino, xxxvi. no. 738, pp. 1-5, 1921.]

It is a great pleasure to receive another paper from our venerable Honorary Member, Count Salvadori. It contains a list of 34 species of Birds collected by Dr. Festa himself in April and May, 1921, in the Italian Colony of Cyrenaica, or Tripoli as it is perhaps better known. Sixteen species are added to the avifauna, including *Passer domesticus*, *Circaëtus gallicus*, *Phœnicopterus roseus*, and *Cursorius gallicus*. The collections were all made at Bengazi or not very far away from that place.

*Swann on the Accipitres.*

[A Synopsis of the Accipitres. Part I. (*Vultur* to *Accipiter*). By H. Kirke Swann. 2nd edition, revised and corrected. Pp. 1-64. London (Wheldon & Wesley), 1921. 8vo.]

We are glad to learn that Mr. Kirke Swann has commenced the issue of a second and revised edition of his list of the Birds of Prey. The work has been thoroughly revised

and corrected, and we notice that the types of the genera and the type-locality of the species being added, greatly enhances the value of the work. As the first part takes up 64 pages against 38 in the corresponding part of the first edition, it is evident that considerable additions have been made to the letterpress. The recently described forms up to the end of 1920 have been placed in the proper places, and some eight new races are here described for the first time.

*Van Oort and the Birds of Holland.*

[*Ornithologia Neerlandica. De Vogels van Nederland, door Dr. E. D. van Oort. Afl. 5-9, pp. 121-152, pls. 41-87 & 91-93. 's Gravenhage (Nijhoff), 1920-1921. 4to.*]

Since our last notice of this fine work on the Birds of Holland (*Ibis*, 1919, p. 552) five more parts have appeared, but only the first of these contained any text, and this dealt with the Geese only. The other parts, nos. 6 to 9, include the plates of the remainder of the Ducks and three of the Harriers, with which the second volume will commence.

The series of plates illustrating the Ducks reflects great credit on the artist, Mr. Koekkoek. Not only are both the sexes and the downy young shown, but also in many cases the eclipse and changing plumages as well; in some cases the attitudes are a little stiff and without much variation, but this is perhaps unavoidable when so many are depicted. The last three plates, devoted to the Harriers, are, to our taste, rather spoiled by the great size of the actual birds as drawn, so that the plates appear to be overcrowded, but all the pictures are undoubtedly fine representations of the species.

We shall look forward to seeing the continuation of this great undertaking, and hope that Dr. van Oort's text will soon catch up the plates.

*Wetmore's Recent Papers.*

[*Wild Ducks and Duck Foods of the Bear River Marshes, Utah. By Alexander Wetmore. Bull. no. 936, United States Department of Agriculture. Pp. 1-20. 1921.*]



[Five new Species of Birds from Cave Deposits in Porto Rico. By Alexander Wetmore. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 33, 1920, pp. 77-82.]

[Colour of Soft Parts in *Anhinga anhinga*. Id., ibid. pp. 182-3.]

[Further Notes on Birds observed near Williams, Arizona. Id. Condor, xxiii. 1921, pp. 60-64.]

Where the Bear river enters the Great Salt Lake of Utah there is considerable deltaic region of marsh, the favourite resort of innumerable Ducks, both during the breeding-season and subsequently. Mr. Wetmore has spent three summer seasons engaged on field-work with the wild duck in this locality, and the first of this list of papers is his report. The two most abundant breeding species are the Redhead (*Marila americana*) and the Cinnamon Teal, which make up more than half the total number of individuals. Mr. Wetmore estimates that there are at least 1700 breeding pairs of the former species. Many other Ducks come into this region after the nesting-season between July and September to undergo the postnuptial moult, and others again to spend the winter after the commencement of October. Mr. Wetmore finds that the food most attractive to the ducks is sago pond-weed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*) and the bayonet grass (*Scirpus paludosus*), though they also devour large quantities of a brine shrimp (*Artemesia*) and an alkali fly (*Ephydra*).

The second paper on the list contains descriptions of five new forms based on semi-fossil limb-bones of birds found in Cave deposits of Porto Rico, of the genera *Polyborus*, *Gallinago*, *Oreopeleia*, *Tyto*, and *Corvus*.

In the third paper is a careful description of the colour of the soft parts of the American Darter, based on an example killed by the author near Cape Sable in Florida. No one appears to have paid much attention to this matter since the time of Audubon.

The last paper on the list is an additional account of the birds of Williams in northern Arizona, supplementary to one published in 1908 by Mr. Wetmore (Kansas Univ. Sci. Bull. vol. iv. pp. 377-388). The total number of species observed by the writer is 65.

*Witherby's Handbook of British Birds.*

[A Practical Handbook of British Birds. Edited by H. F. Witherby. Parts ix-xii. London (Witherby), 1920-1.]

Since our last notice (*Ibis*, 1920, p. 951) the parts of this excellent work on British Birds have been appearing regularly, and the four before us forming the commencement of the second volume contain accounts of the Picarions, Owls, Accipitrines, Herons, and Ducks. The standard set up in the beginning is well maintained, and the information in regard to each species appears to be remarkably complete, especially in regard to the various plumages. We notice that the Red-necked Nightjar, taken near Newcastle in 1856, is now assigned to the desert form, *Caprimulgus ruficollis erlangeri*, and that our Green Woodpecker is no longer confined to our islands but is shared by Germany and France, and must be called *Picus viridis virescens* (Brehm), not *P. v. pluvius*. On the other hand, our Little Owl, though doubtfully a native, has a new name, as it is believed to have been introduced from Holland, not from Germany, where the typical race occurs. Our Dutch subspecies is *Athene noctua mira*.

There are two coloured plates in these four parts—one illustrating the colour and markings of the bills of Swans and Geese, the other the specula of our Ducks. There are also many figures and sketches interspersed in the text illustrating the difference between allied species and other points of interest, all of which are most useful and instructive. There are still six more parts to appear to complete the work.

*Wood and Green on Bird Economics.*

[Birds one should know—beneficial and mischievous. By the Rev. Canon Theodore Wood. Illustrated by Roland Green, F.Z.S. Pp. xii+132; 8 pls. in colour, 16 in black and white. London (Gay and Hancock), 1921. 8vo.]

This work deals with some thirty-three of the commoner species of British Birds, and contains more or less popular notes on the habits and economic status of each. The

letterpress is quite good, but does not profess to add to our knowledge of these matters. Mr. Green's illustrations, however, bring it more into the category of a gift-book.

The eight plates in colour are very good representations of the birds, and are most artistically drawn and well-reproduced. We specially commend the Goldfinches which form the frontispiece. In addition to the plates, every page contains admirable end- and corner-pieces in black and white showing the characteristic attitudes of the birds and often of their young. The work would be most suitable as a gift-book to boys or girls who are commencing to take an interest in bird-life, and from that point of view we can thoroughly recommend it.

*Journ. für Ornithologie.*

[Journal für Ornithologie. 69 Jahrgang, 1921. Heft. i.-iv.]

The four numbers of the Journal für Ornithologie make up a stout volume of 580 pages and contain a number of articles of considerable interest, though the bulk of them perhaps deal with German or, at any rate, European birds. The first number opens with the annual report of the Bird-watching Station at Rossitten in East Prussia for 1919 by the Director, Dr. J. Thienemann. During the year bird-marking does not seem to have been very active; only 115 birds were ringed, 39 of which were Black-backed Gulls and 50 Robins. Some 96 marked birds representing 36 species were recaptured, and it is noticeable how often those which were taken at great distances away were reported from Portugal.

African birds are dealt with by Dr. Reichenow, who describes several new races of birds from the interior steppe districts of Cameroon collected by Tessman in 1914, and criticises some of Mr. Claude Grant's revisions and conclusions made in his 'Ibis' paper in 1915. He also discusses the propriety of calling the Steppe Buzzard *Buteo vulpinus*, and is replied to by Dr. Stresemann and Count Zedlitz. From the last named is a long article

(continued from the previous year) on the birds of Pripjet Swamp on the Russian and Polish borders, from which over 240 species have been recorded.

Dr. H. Grote contributes an account of a collection of birds from the Usambara country in Tanganyika Territory made by a missionary, Karl Roehl, in 1904-7, now in the Berlin Museum. About 20 new subspecies were contained in it, but most of these had been previously described by Dr. Reichenow. Another long faunal paper by Mr. L. Schuster deals with the Birds of north-eastern France from observations made by himself and others during the recent war-years. Dr. A. Koenig continues his survey of the Birds of Egypt, in the present instalment dealing with the Laniidæ, Muscicapidæ, and Nectariniidæ.

Of more general articles, Dr. F. von Lucanus contributes a discussion on mimicry in Cuckoo's eggs. He gives a list of thirty hosts, and in a table shows that of 765 Cuckoo's eggs, in 575 instances these very closely resembled those of the host, in 168 they were quite unlike, and in 22 instances fairly like. Out of the 168 unlike clutches, 120 were taken from the nest of *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Mr. W. R. Eckardt writes a good review of the work of American ornithologists on bird-migration in the New World, and Mr. H. Krohn discusses the colour-sense in birds. Mr. H. Poll writes on the sexual proportions among hybrid birds, and this is the only paper illustrated by a coloured plate. Finally, there is a translation of a Russian memoir by Prof. M. Menzbier and W. Schnitnikov, published in 1915, on the species of *Podoces* in Turkestan, and containing a description of *P. panderi ilensis* which will be found mentioned on p. 2035 of the recently published part of Hartert's Vög. pal. Fauna.

### *Journal of the Museum of Comparative Oology.*

[The Journal of the Museum of Comparative Oology, ii. Nos. 1 & 2, 1921. Santa Barbara, California, U.S.A.]

The second volume of the Journal of the Museum of

Comparative Oology commences with a long argument on the rights of egg-collecting. Those who believe in a moral right to kill birds or other living creatures for the advancement of science cannot but accept the subsidiary right to take eggs. The professed purpose of the Museum is the scientific collection of eggs; it will be for the Museum to prove that, through its collections, science has been, or will be, advanced. Theoretically, any centralization of efforts which will do away with the thousand and one aimless attempts of amateur egg-collectors cannot but be an advance on present-day methods, and if, together with the incitement offered to some to collect properly and methodically for the one object in view, discouragement is given to those others, the far greater number, who steal eggs without any such object, much good will be done. It is early days to approve or to condemn, and whilst we sympathize with the idea itself, we must wait in patience to see what the idea will eventually result in. For the present, the Journal shows that much encouragement has been given to the movement, both in America and elsewhere, and we shall look forward to the time when many writers of weight and discretion give their assistance to Mr. L. Dawson in filling the pages of the Journal.

*Norsk Ornithologisk Tidsskrift.*

[*Norsk Ornithologisk Tidsskrift.* No. 1, pp. 1-84. Redaktør: H. Tho. L. Schaanning. Stavanger Museum.]

We welcome the first number of a new Ornithological Journal issued by the Norwegian Ornithological Society—*Norsk Ornithologisk Forening*—which has recently been founded to extend the knowledge of Norwegian birds and to take all possible steps to preserve and protect Norwegian bird-life. The editor, Mr. Schaanning, is the Konservator of the Stavanger Museum, where, though it is not definitely so stated, the journal is printed and published. We have also one other critical remark to make, and that is that the date of publication is nowhere stated. This should



be seen to in future numbers. The journal is very well printed, and got up in rather a large octavo size, about  $10\frac{1}{2} \times 8$  inches.

The first article is by the editor, and is a very useful tabular list of Norwegian birds, showing their distribution from south to north and the parallel of their northern extension as well as their occurrence in Spitsbergen or Bear Island. We would direct the attention of the members of the Spitsbergen Expedition to this list. The number recorded in the list is 302, which may be contrasted with 325 in the British List if the "rare visitors" be excluded.

The second article, by Mr. H. Broch, tells us what is being done in the matter of bird-protection in Sweden and Denmark, and this is followed by an account of bird-ringing in Norway and elsewhere by the editor, who has himself ringed some 372 birds in the last seven years. He has also another contribution on migration in Norway, with arrival dates from observations made in various parts of the country. There are other articles of less importance from the pens of H. Fjeldberg, A. Bernhoft-Osa, and B. Hanson, and finally a plea from Dr. Schaanning for the formation of an Ornithological Central Station at the Stavanger Museum, where all records could be kept, codified, and published in due course.

We wish the new venture of our Norwegian fellow-workers all success, and look forward to receiving future numbers of their new journal.

*Trans. London Nat. Hist. Soc.*

[Transactions of the London Natural History Society for the Year 1920. London, 1921.]

The London Natural History Society is an amalgamation of the City of London Entomological Society founded in 1858 and the North London Natural History Society founded in 1892, and in addition to the main body which meets in the City at Winchester House, there is a branch

at Chingford in Essex; it interests itself in Archæology as well as the various branches of Zoology and Botany, and appears to have a flourishing list of active members. In the present number of the Transactions is a pleasant account of his visits to southern Spain by Mr. H. Kirke Swann, who spent a fortnight in the spring of last year in a village in the mountains west of Ronda, where he was fortunate enough to obtain the eggs of a good many Raptorial Birds, including the Griffon and Egyptian Vultures.

The other ornithological paper is a report on the birds of Epping Forest, drawn up by Mr. S. Austin, and contains a list of 92 species which have been identified within the Forest area. It is a remarkable fact that the Wryneck should be so scarce a bird in Epping as to be almost unknown. The number of nests in the Wanstead Heronry has, we regret to learn, decreased considerably of late years; there were only 58 nests in 1920 as against 72 in 1916.

*Trans. Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Soc.*

[Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society. Presented to Members for 1920-21. Vol. xi. pt. ii. 1921.]

The members of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society are certainly to be congratulated on the fare provided for them by Dr. Long, their Hon. Secretary and Editor. The volume just received contains a good many articles of very considerable interest to ornithologists as well as on other subjects. The annual address of the President, Mr. B. B. Riviere, on his retirement, delivered in April last, deals chiefly with the movement of Gulls along the coasts of Norfolk. It is a phenomenon which has been often noticed and commented on but never satisfactorily explained, that every afternoon in late summer and autumn there is a regular passage of Gulls in a north-westerly direction along the coasts of Norfolk from the neighbourhood of Yarmouth to about Blakeney Point. The Gulls are chiefly Great Black-backs and some Herrings. Mr. Riviere

believes that this passage is due to the movement of the Gulls away from the herring-grounds off Yarmouth, after having satisfied their appetites, towards beaches and stretches of sand where they congregate and rest, and that the return movements take place at or before dawn, and are therefore not so often noticed.

Mr. Anthony Buxton contributes a charmingly written article on spring Birds at Geneva in Switzerland, where he is residing, and he has a good deal to say about the arrival, courting, and nesting of a pair of Golden Orioles in his garden. Miss K. M. Watson, D.Sc., has been studying the habits of the Tern colony at Blakeney Point during the summer of 1920, and has added some fresh facts and observations to those of Mr. Rowan, with whom she was formerly associated in this work. She and her friends recorded 412 nests containing 900 eggs. These have all been carefully measured, and the coloration and markings noted in accordance with a fixed scale. Dr. Long, the editor, has an article on bird-protection in Norfolk, and hopes to centralize the activities of various small associations engaged in protecting birds in various parts of the country at Breydon, Blakeney, Wells, and Wolferton. Mr. Gurney recalls the fact that Peter Munday, whose travels in the early part of the 17th century have recently been published by the Hakluyt Society, found Gannets breeding on Gull Rock near Falmouth in 1635 or 1636. Death has been active among the members of the Society of late: in addition to Colonel Feilden and Mr. Upcher, notices of whom have appeared in our pages, Mr. James Reeves, for many years Curator of Norwich Castle Museum, died on 19 December, 1920, at the age of 87. Excellent portraits of all three accompany the notices.

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